

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
55/18

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1105,1106

Massachusetts Historical Commission



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 8 Oakmount Circle

Historic Name Sherburne & Mary Prescott House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1922

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder Haven & Hoyt (Lewis Sise), Boston

Exterior Material:

Foundation not visible

Wall/Trim brick

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage/gardeners cottage (1923) - MHC #1106

inground swimming pool

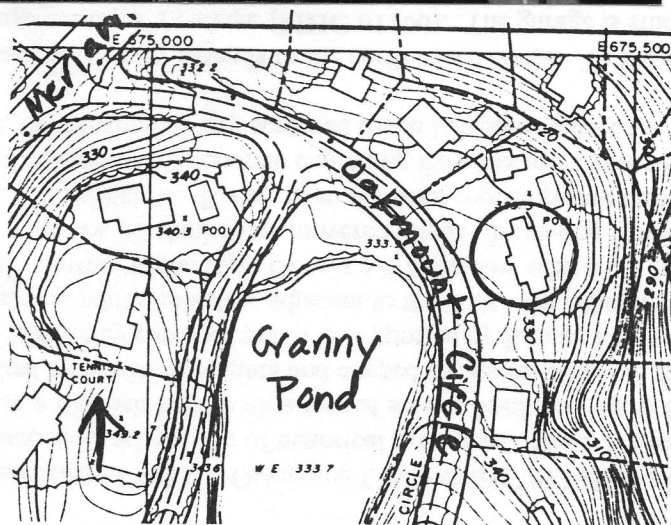
Major Alterations (with dates) 1988 - tore down maid's porch, added to kitchen, screened porch converted to sunporch

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 47,380 SF

Setting early 20th century residential neighborhood



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) June 2000

BUILDING FORM (8 Oakmount Circle)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Constructed in 1922, 8 Oakmount Circle (MHC #1105) is a brick Colonial Revival dwelling which displays considerable latitude in its adaptation of historical precedent. The 2 1/2-story, five bay-wide, side gabled dwelling is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond with a row of soldier brick serving as a watertable. The center entrance contains a six-panel door flanked by partial sidelights and capped by a semi-elliptical fanlight filled with tracery with a recessed panel outer surround. The single-bay entrance porch is supported by Roman Doric columns with a cluster of three at each of the two front corners, echoed by paired pilasters adjacent to the door. On either side of the entrance is a narrow 4/1 window with a flat arch brick lintel. Further to the right there is a 8/8 window with a 6/6 sash on the opposite side. The upper level of the facade has four 6/6 windows, all flanked by louvered blinds. Deviating from the pattern, the fourth bay contains two narrow 4/4 windows with a panel below. Rising from the front roof slope are three pedimented dormers containing casement windows. There is a brick chimney with concrete cap rising from the rear slope and an exterior brick chimney on the south elevation. On the south side, the old single-story screened porch has been replaced by a glazed sunporch lit by casement windows.

A paved driveway extends to the north of the house. To the north of the driveway, facing the main house is a single-story garage/gardener's cottage (MHC #1106). The garage is stuccoed with a large, double-wide garage door facing the house. A pent roof extends below the gable. Attached to the east end of the garage is a gardener's cottage set above a brick foundation. Fenestration includes an arched door and 3 x 3-light and 6/6 windows. An inground pool is located in the back yard.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This property comprises lots 133-135 of the Oakmount Park subdivision which was laid out in 1903. Town Valuation Records indicate that in 1922 Mary Prescott paid taxes on just a lot but by the following year she was assessed for a house valued at \$25,000. The first mention of a garage appears on the 1924 valuation. The present owners, Stephen and Louise Berry, have copies of the original drawings for the house which indicate it was designed by Lewis Sise of the Boston architectural firm of Haven and Hoyt. Directories indicate that Mary Prescott's husband, Sherburne, was a Christian Science practitioner. By 1950 the house was occupied by Ann and Harrison Biggi who sold the property to Kenneth and Eleanor Fox in 1963. Peter and Linea Gabriel purchased the property in 1973 and sold it to the present owners in 1988.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Information from Louise Berry, June 2000.

Lexington Assessors Records.

Lexington Directories, various dates.

Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Lexington

Property Address
8 Oakmount Circle
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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